No 28

A SHORT

SERMON,

Suitable to the

STATE of EVERY PERSON

Born into this WORLD.

Warning every man, Col. i. 28.

LONDON:
Printed for E. HOOD, in Stationers Alley, Ludgate-ſtreet.
M.DCC.LXVIII.
[Price One Penny, or 9d. per Dozen.]

Flee from the wrath to come. Matth. iii. 7.

WE live in a Chriſtian land, every one who is called a Chriſtian, naturally thinks he is one: yea, tho' men remain quite ignorant of the truths of Chriſtianity, unconcerned for the ſalvation of their ſouls, are ſlaves to their wicked luſts, under the dominion of ſin, while ſatan ruleth in their hearts, and they hate the ways of God and holineſs; yet, notwithſtanding all this, ſuch perſons entertain no doubt but they are Chriſtians, and vainly flatter themſelves that they ſhall be ſaved when they come to die. Moſt dangerous error! moſt fatal deluſion! 'Tis moſt true, every CHRISTIAN is an heir of eternal life, he is poſſeſſed of the hope of the goſpel, and ſhall moſt aſſuredly enjoy everlaſting ſalvation. But who is a Chriſtian? A Chriſtian not in name and profeſſion only, but in truth and reality? In one word, he is a Chriſtian, who believes the goſpel, and has "fled from the wrath to come: fled "for refuge to lay hold of the hope ſet before us," Heb. vi. 18. even fled to Jeſus, as the only hope, the only refuge, the only Saviour, for loſt and periſhing ſinners, from ſin, from wrath, and from hell: ſuch and ONLY ſuch are real Chriſtians. Reader, art thou one of this bleſſed number? If ſo, thou wilt ever confeſs on earth, "By "the grace of God, I am WHAT I am;" and when brought to glory, wilt moſt humbly caſt thy crown at the feet of Jeſus, and acknowledge, by the grace of God, I am WHERE I am.

But as to ſuch who are ſtrangers to this grace, O what a dreadful ſtate doth the word of God plainly declare them to be in! "By nature children of wrath." ALL: every one: not one excepted, Eph. ii. 3. "and the wrath of God "is revealed from heaven againſt all ungodlineſs and un-"righteouſneſs of men," Rom. i. 18. But alas! while "dead in treſpaſſes and ſins," Eph. ii. 1. they ſee not their danger; they hear not "the terror of the Lord;" they believe not that "the Lord Jeſus ſhall be revealed from hea-"ven, with his mighty angels, in flaming fire, taking ven-"geance on them that know not God, and that obey not "the goſpel of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt," 2 Theſſ. i. 7, 8, 9. and therefore they go on "after the hardneſs and im-"penitency of their hearts, to treaſure up to themſelves "wrath againſt the day of wrath, and revelation of the "righteous judgment of God," Rom. ii. 5. for as ſure

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as there is a God in heaven, a devil in hell, and a man upon the earth, " the wicked ſhall be turned into hell, and " all the people who forget God," Pſal. ix. 17. For, " He that believeth not in Jeſus, ſhall not ſee life, he is " condemned already, and the wrath of God abideth on him, John iii. 18, 36. and it is the fixed decree of hea- " ven, that " without holineſs no man ſhall ſee the Lord," Heb. xii. 14.

Sinner! thou art told of thy ſtate; thou art warned of thy danger: O if thou didſt but ſee thy ſtate; if thy conſcience, now " hardened through the deceitfulneſs of ſin," was but truly awakened to a ſenſe of thy danger, how wouldſt thou ſtand amazed, and cry out in aſtoniſhment, Vile wretch that I am! how have I flattered myſelf with vain hopes! how have I hitherto deceived my own ſoul! how have I lived " without God, without Chriſt, and without hope in " the world," Eph. ii. 12. wo is me, I am ruined and undone! I find I am a ſinner againſt the Lord God Almighty! what will become of me? Is awful death haſtening to ſeize me? have I an immortal ſoul? before a dreadful judgment muſt I ſoon ſtand? is an endleſs eternity to be my doom? do I deſerve to hear that dreadful ſentence, " Depart, ye " curſed, into everlaſting fire, prepared for the devil and his " angels?" Matt. xxv. 41. O! whither ſhall I flee? how ſhall I eſcape? " What muſt I do to be ſaved?" — Is ſuch the language of thy heart? is this the enquiry of thy ſoul?

Behold! mercy is near to embrace thee; " an open door " of hope is before thee," Rev. iii. 8. the goſpel is glad tidings of great joy to poor ſinners; for it makes the way of ſalvation plain before our eyes, and ſhews us how to eſcape our danger; and whom to flee to for ſafety. " Flee from " the wrath to come:" that is, " believe on the Lord Je- " ſus, and thou ſhalt be ſaved," Acts xvi. 31. Believing in Jeſus is the only way of fleeing from wrath. He is the only refuge for law-condemned, ſin-diſtreſt ſouls to flee unto. Hear his ſweet, his heavenly, his inviting voice, " Look " unto ME, and be ye ſaved, all the ends of the earth. Iſa. xlv. 22. " Come unto ME, all ye that labour, and " are heavy laden, and I will give you reſt." Matt. xi. 28. " Neither is there ſalvation in any other; for there is none " other name under heaven, given among men, whereby " we muſt be ſaved," Acts iv. 12. " He came to ſeek and " to ſave loſt ſinners," Luke xix. 10. He rejoiceth " to " receive all ſuch who come unto him," John vi. 37. And it is his glory and delight " to ſave them all to the very " uttermoſt," Heb. vii. 25. Coming to Jeſus is believing on him. That moment thou believeſt on Jeſus, with thine heart,

heart, thou art ſaved: ſaved from all thy ſins—ſaved from thy guilty fears—ſaved from wrath—ſaved from all deſtruction—"ſaved with an everlaſting ſalvation." Then thou wilt love the Lord and his way of holineſs; then thou wilt hate every ſin, and abhor all the paths of iniquity.

This is the glad tidings of the goſpel: ſuch is the glorious ſalvation of JESUS. This is the bleſſed, joyful ſtate of every true CHRISTIAN. "Happy art thou, O believer! who is "like unto thee, O highly-favoured ſoul, SAVED BY THE "LORD!" Deut. xxxiii. 29. But, O affecting reflection! what millions of wretched ſouls, who having "filled up "the meaſure of their iniquity," and rejected the glorious ſalvation of Jeſus on earth; "now the wrath of God is "come upon them to the uttermoſt," 1 Theſſ. ii. 16. and they are for ever "weeping, and wailing, and gnaſhing "their teeth," in unutterable horror and endleſs deſpair in hell! O the dreadful anguiſh of their tormented ſpirits! when in the bitterneſs of their ſouls they "ſay to the moun-"tains and rocks, fall on us, and hide us from the face of "him that ſitteth upon the throne, and from THE WRATH "OF THE LAMB: for THE GREAT DAY OF HIS WRATH "IS COME; and who ſhall be able to ſtand!" Rev. vi. 16, 17.

But, O tranſporting meditation! what an innumerable company of bleſſed ſpirits are now ſurrounding the throne in glory! They were once like you and me poor ſinners upon earth. But now, they are rejoicing and triumphing in glory, that ever they heard of the ſalvation of Jeſus; that they "fled from the wrath to come," and were ſaved from wrath, through believing on his moſt precious name. Upon earth Jeſus was all their ſalvation, and all their deſire, he was their ſong and the joy of their hearts; while they ever cried, "God forbid that we ſhould glory, ſave in the croſs of "our Lord Jeſus Chriſt," Gal. vi 14. And through a never-ending eternity they ſing, "Unto him that loved us, "and waſhed us from our ſins in his own blood; to him "be glory and dominion, for ever, and ever, Amen." Rev. i. 5. "Worthy is the Lamb that was ſlain, to receive "power, and riches, wiſdom, ſtrength, honour, and glory, "and bleſſing." Rev. v. 12.

Soon, very ſoon, reader, in one of theſe awfully different ſtates muſt your ſoul and mine be eternally and unalterably fixed. The Lord enable us to conſider it! "Seeing this, "what manner of perſons ought we to be in all holy con-"verſation and godlineſs, looking for, and haſting unto the "coming of the Son of God." 2 Pet. iii. 11, 12. Amen.

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